

**August 30, 2026 – 9:30 AM**

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST**



*A Word of Welcome*

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God. Our visitors bless us richly. We hope that we may be a blessing to you as well. Our welcome and Jesus' commandment to "love one another" extends to neighbors of diverse racial or ethnic backgrounds, physical and emotional needs, sexual orientations and gender identities/expressions. We are committed to working for racial equity and ending racism in all its expressions.*

*We affirm with the Apostle Paul that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female". (Galatians 3:28) Christ has made us one. You are welcome here! We honor the peoples who first inhabited the land on which we now gather and worship, the people of the Tongva, The Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, and Chumash tribes. We stand with our native siblings in efforts to thrive and live in peace and justice today.*

**St. Luke Lutheran Church**

**5312 Comercio Way, Woodland Hills, CA 91364 (818) 346-3070 [office.saint.luke@gmail.com](mailto:office.saint.luke@gmail.com)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

*The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.*

**PRELUDE** “**Lord, I Want to Be a Christian**” setting by John Carter, orch. B.L. Ross  
Michael Lloyd, Clarinet, John Magnussen, Vibes/Percussion, Bettie Ross, Piano

**WELCOME**

Pastor Janet Hansted

## **HISTORIC CHRISTIAN GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*\*You are invited to rise in body or spirit*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, source of hope in every nation,  
rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

**Amen.**

Let us bring every burden to God. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of all mercy,

**we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation.**

**Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good  
is at war with the evil that dwells in us.**

**We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us  
for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

All-merciful, mighty and forgiving God release you from the power of all your sins  
through the grace of ☩ Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit's power strengthen you in doing  
what is good. **Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN

## ELW # 879 For the Beauty of the Earth (vv. 1,3,5)



- 1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
- 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
- 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
- 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
- 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:  
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

### Psalm 26:1-8

Joy Wenzel

1 Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

**2 Test me, O Lord, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.**

3 For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

**4 I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

5 I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

**6 I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, that I may go in procession round your altar,**

7 singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

**8 Lord, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.**

*\*You are invited to rise in body or spirit*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW # 519 Open Your Ears, O Faithful People**

**Open your ears, O faithful people,  
open your ears and hear God's word.  
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood,  
God has come to you.**

***Refrain***

**God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!  
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!  
God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!  
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!**

**We who have ears to hear the message,  
we who have ears, now let us hear;  
we who would learn the way of wisdom,  
let us hear God's word.**

*A reading from the 16th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.*

**THE GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28**

Pastor Janet Hansted

21 From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." 23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it

profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

27 “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28 Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

*The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ!***

*\*Please be seated*

## SERMON

Pastor Janet Hansted

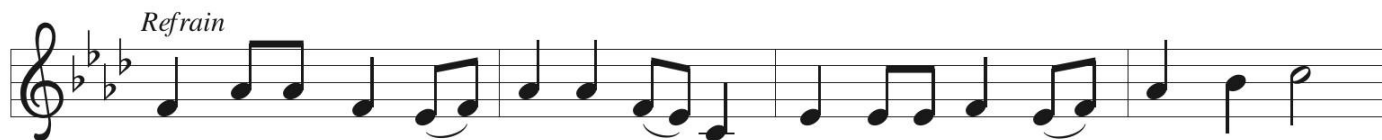
### SERMON HYMN ACS # 1036 Commonwealth Is God's Commandment



- 1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
- 2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
- 3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,



Ta-bles set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.  
stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man-y folds.  
bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.



Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha: com-mon good is ho-ly ground.

## Prayers of Intercession

Joy Wenzel

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, we pray for Pastor Eric Shafer's visit coming up September 13th, God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. At a time when the whole world is hurting, help us to grow as your church, your hands and feet in this life.

For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Wondrous God, **receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters.

Wondrous God, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster, especially our siblings in Ukraine, Colombia, Palestine and all the Middle East. Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations, that they may bring relief, mercy and hope.

Wondrous God, **receive our prayer.**

For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit. Empower us to embrace people seeking refuge; those incarcerated, detained, or disappeared; and neighbors fearing those they once trusted. Bring an end to the human rights abuses of ICE and Border Patrol agencies. God, you are our host and the meal itself at our Communion table, help us to ensure that all have enough to eat, support children returning to school who hunger and rely on school meals, and sustain all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment to make a living. Walk with the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, help us find sustainable ways for all to have the healthcare they need. Wondrous God, **receive our prayer.**

God of healing, we entrust to your care all who are fighting cancer: Dana Kaminsky, Betsy Bombick, Joe Perry, Allan Thompson, Kim Vicenty, Ann Decker, Marvin Sanders, Jamie Pascale, Sherri Alexander, Dave Edson, Duffy Walton and April Bryan.

We also offer our prayers for our beloved friends and family struggling with illnesses and other hardships: Edie Ramseyer, Jeff McBride, Mary Elkin, Sue Ivanjack, Bob and Judy Miller, Sonia Flinker, Becky Jenkins, Richard Tushemereirwe, Pr. Cesar Arroyo, Robert Ruiz, Aracelly Monroy, Christopher Lombrano, Brittany Morales, Nancy and

Don Schneider, Jane Christensen and Stephanie Truex, Lorena, Tom, Chris and Nico Norris.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The Peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

**Our stewardship really does matter and it makes a difference in the world everyday!** With every faithful act of giving we extend God's grace and love to the world around us. We are a generous people in response to God's generosity toward us! We choose to be good stewards of our time, our energies, our skills and our finances. May you know the blessing of living generously!

**[Second Offerings: Our practice is to receive two offerings on the first Sunday of each month and on the third Sunday of a 5-Sunday month!]**

Our online giving options include:

- 1) Online at: [Tithely](https://tithely.com)  Tithely
- 2) Go to our website to donate: [CLICK HERE](#)
- 3) Drop offerings in the office door mail slot - they are securely received and picked up regularly.
- 4) In-person worship, an offering plate is in the aisle

*With all our giving, together, we build a strong foundation for the mission and ministry of the congregation. Thank you for doing your part and for your faithfulness! If you'd like assistance to set up online giving, please contact the church office!*

**\* For all worshippers, please fill in a worship registration form and place it in the offering plate. Please use the form to let us know if you have any prayer requests or other needs, or call the church office. We are always eager to hear from you!**

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**     **Come, My Soul, Thou Must Be Waking**” by Franz Joseph Haydn, arranged by Penny Rodriguez  
Michael Lloyd, Clarinet; John Magnussen, Vibes; Bettie Ross, Piano

**WELCOME TO THE TABLE**

*\*You are invited to rise in body or spirit*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

With joyful hearts, we praise you Holy One. In the wonder of this meal, the simple bread and wine, you draw near to feed us. In our broken humanity, we know we can only begin to glimpse the fullness of your mystery and majesty, still we raise our hearts and songs to you. Together with all the choirs of creatures that surround your heavenly throne, we pour out our grateful praises to you:

**We Eat the Bread of Teaching**

*We eat the bread of teaching,  
drink wine of wisdom,  
are given here a taste of the kingdom.  
Together joined, the greatest and the least,  
we all are one at Wisdom's holy feast.*

*Wisdom calls throughout the city,  
knows our hunger, and in pity  
gives her loving invitation  
to the banquet of salvation.*

*We eat the bread of teaching,  
drink wine of wisdom,  
are given here a taste of the kingdom.  
Together joined, the greatest and the least,  
we all are one at Wisdom's holy feast.*

**Words of Institution**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: *Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.* Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: *This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

This bread and cup are signs of God's living presence with us. When we receive them we become them. **Christ is alive in us! Alleluia! Amen!**

**[In-Person Distribution: All are welcome at the Lord's Table! You will be given bread, which you can dip into either the first chalice with wine or the second chalice which has grape juice. If you need a gluten-free option, please just indicate that to the Pastor. If you would prefer not to receive the Sacrament, you are invited to come forward for a blessing; please cross your arms over your chest to indicate your preference for a blessing.]**

**COMMUNION HYMNS:  
ELW # 466 In the Singing**



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,  
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,  
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

**ACS # 1056 God Bless to Us Our Bread (played through then sung 3x)**



*Ben - di - ce, Se-ñor, nues - tro pan, y da pan a los que tien - en*  
God bless to . . us our . . bread, and give bread . . to all those who are



*ham - bre y ham - bre de jus - ti - cia a los que tien - en*  
hun - gry, and hun - ger for jus - tice to those who are



*pan. Ben - di - ce, Se - ñor, nues - tro pan.*  
fed. God bless to . . . us our . . . bread.

*\*You are invited to rise in body or spirit*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

We pray as Jesus taught us, saying. . .

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN ELW # 710 Let Streams of Living Justice



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free-dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home-land bright-ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

## BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **We will. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**      **“I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy”** arranged by B. L. Ross  
Michael Lloyd, Clarinet; John Magnussen, Vibes; Bettie Ross, Piano



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

### **THANK YOU FOR THE GENEROUS DONATIONS LAST SUNDAY!!!!**



We continue to receive donations to keep the ministry responsive to the needs!

Join us today, Sunday, August 30th for our next event after worship as we assemble care kits for our local families in need!

Thank you to everyone who who regularly donates, supports and volunteers for our Care Kit Ministry! Your generosity and support make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we



serve. Online contributions to the St. Luke Care Kit Ministry can be made at our website: [stlukelutheran.com](http://stlukelutheran.com) - click on the DONATE tab. Questions or interested in volunteering? Contact Janice Pontoppidan 818-880-4497 (Please Leave a message!)

---

**LOOKING FORWARD TO **GOD’S WORK OUR HANDS** DAY!**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2026!**  
**WEAR YOUR GOLD T-SHIRTS!!!**

**DON'T MISS OUR GUEST PREACHER, PR. ERIC SHAFER, GLOBAL REFUGE!**

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH



**God's work.  
Our hands.**



*A day of worship, witness, and service together*

**DATE**

**Sunday, September 13,  
2026**

**WORSHIP**

**9:30 AM**  
Followed by the talk below

**WELCOME**

**All are welcome**  
Bring a friend



**Guest Preacher: Pastor Eric Shafer**

**GLOBAL REFUGE**

Pastor Shafer will preach at our 9:30 AM service. Immediately after, he'll speak on the realities facing immigrants in the U.S. today — documented and undocumented alike — and on the work Global Refuge has carried out since the late 1930s to welcome and support them. Stay for a conversation grounded in both compassion and decades of experience.

Rev. Eric C. Shafer is Global Refuge's Pastor-in-Residence and an ELCA pastor. He retired in 2022 after eight-plus years as Senior Pastor of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Santa Monica, where he helped launch the first shelter for homeless college students in the U.S. He previously served as Senior VP of Odyssey Networks and Director of Communication for the ELCA, has taught in South Africa and Madagascar, traveled repeatedly to Jerusalem and the West Bank, and hosts the YouTube program *Hope Matters*.

**St. Luke Lutheran Church**

5312 Comercio Way  
Woodland Hills, CA

*Come as you are, and bring a friend.*



 **MARK THESE UPCOMING Date: Sept 25th!**

**STANDING INVITATION! Come, Volunteer with us on the Fourth Friday of Each Month at 9:00 AM.**

Join us at the West Valley Food Pantry (5700 Rudnick Ave, Woodland Hills) to help assemble food bags for low-income and senior residents in need. We're providing a team of 6–8 volunteers—come lend a hand!

 **Time:** 9:00 AM (2–3 hours)

 **Parking:** South lot at Prince of Peace Church or nearby street parking

 **Wear:** Closed-toe shoes, comfortable clothing

 **To volunteer:** Call Mike O'Neill at 213-309-3300

 **Waiver:** Bring a signed volunteer waiver (available online or onsite)



Thank you to all the volunteers who have participated in our Clean Streets Ministry Events this last Season. We are currently on Summer hiatus. Looking forward to seeing everyone in September!

---

**MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY** on hiatus for the summer! See you in September!

---

**CHOIR IS ON SUMMER BREAK! Thanks be to God for all the choir members, Lisa Curtis - Choir Director and all our generous musicians!**

Anyone interested in offering their musical contribution to worship this summer is invited to contact [Lisa Curtis](#) for more information! Please consider sharing your gifts!!

---

**WEEKLY WORD - NEWSLETTER AND ST. LUKE WEBSITE**

If you aren't currently receiving the weekly newsletter, "the Weekly Word" please go to the website ([StLukeLutheran.com](http://StLukeLutheran.com)) and sign up under the newsletter tab.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

---

**WANT TO HELP?**

**[Support crisis response in the Middle East "LA FIRE RECOVERY"](#)**  
**[Please click here for a list of available resources and assistance for](#)**

**[those affected by the recent fires.](#)**

**[Southwest California Synod - Disaster Relief](#)**

**[Lutheran Disaster Response - Help support flood response and recovery in Texas.](#)**

**[ELCA Resources for the Crisis in the Holy Land](#)**



With your help, we support and empower immigrants and refugees who are rebuilding their lives in the United States. [Global Refuge](#).

[CLICK HERE FOR ADDITIONAL WAYS TO GIVE](#) To offer financial and volunteer support to rescue and advocacy efforts, locally and globally, please consider the organizations listed below as well as additional links on our Website to a variety of service organizations we heartily endorse:

[Lutheran World Relief](#) [West Valley Food Pantry](#) [Twin Valleys Lutheran Parish](#)  
[Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service](#) [ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response](#)

---

**Prayer Concerns:** please be sure to contact the church office to update the prayer concerns you've submitted. After being spoken in the prayers of the church for several Sundays, prayer concerns will be moved to a long-term list, unless the office has an update or other request. Be sure to celebrate God's answers to prayer!!! Thank you!

---

### **WORSHIP LEADERS, STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS**

Rev. Janet Hansted: Pastor Leah Hayes: Church Office Administrator  
Lisa Curtis: Choir Director Bettie Ross: Piano, Organ, Arranger, Orchestrator John Magnussen: Vibes and Percussion  
Michael Lloyd: Clarinet & Alto Sax

**Choir:** Lisa Curtis, Director, Janis Hatlestad, Mary Ann Hausner, Brian Jessen, Randy Kistler, Kristi Magnussen, Michael O'Neill, Janice Pontoppidan, David Primuth, Dave Schilder, Lynn Schilder, Joy Wenzel, Kirsten Wylie

**Live Streaming:** David Schilder, Jessie Vacchiano & Linda Weaver **Lector:** Joy Wenzel  
**Greeters/Usher:** Bill Thoma & Jackie Cullum **Counters:** Mary Ann Hausner & Dave Schilder  
**Altar Guild:** Joy Wenzel  
**Janitorial Services:** Ernesto & Lorena Villaseñor



**In addition to the prayers included above, please pray during the week...**

#### **For our Church**

Presiding Bishop Curry and family, Bishop Brenda Bos and family, Synod Staff, Synod Council and Conference Deans, our Twin Valleys Parish partners and all congregations dealing with pastoral transitions.

#### **For our Country and the World Ongoing prayer**

- All who have suffered with Covid or lost loved ones to the pandemic.
- All who have suffered losses and are still recovering from past hurricanes, fires and natural disasters.
- All who've lost loved ones in tragic accidents, first responders, their families and those grieving.
- All families and friends of victims of racial and gun violence or killed in abuse of power situations
- All the faithful to renounce and refuse to participate in any and all forms of hatred.
- President Trump and family, VP JD Vance and family all who serve positions in city, state and national leadership, and their family members.
- All immigrants and refugees seeking asylum.
- All who provide national & international disaster relief or serve in the military.
- All people of Ukraine, Iran, Nigeria, Palestine, Israel, Sudan and Venezuela and wherever persecution persists.
- All who are incarcerated, illegally detained or kidnapped and their families.